

Help end generations of leprosy!



Asmita's family has a long history of leprosy. Both her parents, as well as her grandfather suffered from the disease.

Her grandfather died before Multi-Drug Therapy was available, and Asmita's father caught it from him. Asmita's parents both discovered they had leprosy around the age of 11. Weakness and clawing in hands have limited their work opportunities.

Leprosy also prevented Asmita's father from completing his education. Now he is determined for Asmita to do as much studying as she wants. No pressure to marry or get a job, just the opportunity to reach for her dreams and stand on her own two feet. Kind-hearted people like you supported Asmita in her early education, through the now concluded Socio-Economic Rehabilitation (SER project). Now, compassionate people like you are allowing her to aim higher through the TLC Tertiary Education project.

Asmita's parents showed her the importance of helping others. This encouraged her to apply for and be accepted into a Bachelor of Nursing course. "There are lots of people who are needed and there are lots of people who are suffering from many diseases."

Asmita has learned a lot since starting her course. "I love taking care of patients in general." "Especially since, so many patients don't get

proper care during their hospital stay for different reasons...We go into local communities and teach people about sanitary health practices and their importance in daily life. We also gauge the local population for things lacking in their health practices and provide training accordingly."

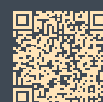
Today, thanks to your care and compassion, and the strength of her parents, Asmita is a strong and resilient person. She is working hard to make her parents proud and make a difference in her community. "It makes me happy."

Pray for Asmita as she continues to study and put her training into practice. Pray she will find satisfaction and pride in her work, creating a healthier, better educated community.

Give thanks for Asmita's parents who show courage and resilience dealing with the effects of leprosy. Pray they will continue to support Asmita and celebrate her achievements along the way.

Pray for the students involved in the TLC Tertiary Education project. May they experience joy and the hope of a brighter future as they embrace the opportunities presented to them.

Help a student like Asmita to make a difference in their communities.
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/tlc/tertiary-nepal/kit0824>





Exciting New Projects Need Your Prayers!

Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." This is true for The Leprosy Mission as it seeks to begin projects to bring about lasting change for people affected by leprosy in India, Nepal, Timor-Leste, and Nigeria. We have prayed for these projects and God has blessed those prayers and the tireless efforts of the teams here in Australia and in the field.

Now, as these projects officially begin, we ask you to take up the call and commit them to the Lord. Will you pray for God to establish these plans? For the foundations to set firmly so that they can build the infrastructure – the teams, activities, and relationships – needed to

bring dignity, healing, and a bright future for individuals and communities affected by leprosy?

Each day in August, we need you to pray for the following people:

Staff, volunteers, people affected by leprosy, health care workers, local and national governments, community leaders, organisations of people with disabilities, donors, and prayer partners.

The E-LETRA project (Ending Leprosy Transmission) is in Oecusse, a municipality in Timor-Leste. Oecusse is a five-hour drive from the capital Dili, or more than ten hours by boat. The E-LETRA team have ambitious goals. The first one is to reduce leprosy prevalence to below 0.5 cases per 10,000 people. The second, to have

no new Grade 2 disabilities diagnosed, which includes individuals with clawed hands and drop foot.

In Nigeria your prayers are helping support the Enhanced Care for Integrated Skin NTDs in Nigeria. Essentially this project is expanding our previous project into two new states, Benue and Nasarawa, and continuing the work in Zamfara. The project will address challenges relating to three Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) – leprosy, Buruli ulcers, and lymphatic filariasis – with the goal of eliminating them as a public health problem.

Following the conclusion of the Inclusive Empowerment project, the CID, or Co-creating Inclusive Development project has the goal of fostering inclusive



Left page: Pius Sunday from the Leprosy Mission Nigeria; A self-care group in India. Please pray for the new projects around the world!

Right page: Shanti; Shanti visiting her doctor. Please pray for children like Shanti to live without fear!

health and mental well-being initiatives in new areas within the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The teams will continue the effective work of the mobile therapy van in new locations. Where possible they will seek to build on current knowledge to provide innovation in the use of technology to deliver better outcomes for people with disabilities.

In Nepal, the impressively named Strengthening Pathways for Economic Resilience through Sustainable Opportunities to Communities (SPROUTS) project will continue the work of the IMPACT project but expand into neighbouring areas. The team have four goals: Improved overall health of targeted communities; enhanced livelihood opportunities and income; strengthened resilience and adaptability of communities; and gender equitable livelihood opportunities and increased income.

“When blisters started appearing on her skin, Shanti stopped going to school and no longer saw her friends, because she felt so anxious.”

Each of these projects have different priorities and diverse communities in which they are working. Yet, there is one thing that draws them together; a deep desire to see an end to leprosy.

It is for children like Shanti that The Leprosy Mission exists. When blisters started appearing on her skin, Shanti stopped going to school and no longer saw her friends, because she felt so anxious.

Not just about the disease, but also the rejection by friends.

After upskilling of health workers by the Leprosy Mission, Shanti was able to receive an accurate diagnosis of leprosy

and given Multi-Drug Therapy

These projects aim to build resilient communities in which children like Shanti can live without fear, with hope for a bright future that won't be taken away by disease, or discrimination, or disability.

Will you commit to praying each day in August for these projects? Pray that these projects will form a firm foundation, ready to tackle the injustices of leprosy, disability, discrimination, and poverty. Pray for the people and groups mentioned in the article. Pray for Shanti and children like him to be able to live full lives and reach for their dreams.

You can show your love for children like Shanti and say goodbye to leprosy here:



<https://leprosymission.org.au/goodbyeleprosy/kit0824>



“We can all help end the suffering, restoring lives and communities.”

This is an excerpt from a longer article. For the full story, and to watch David Wenham's Ted X talk, you can visit: <https://stillathing.org/> or scan the QR code and scroll down the page.



“It’s the story of a Belgian priest, Damien, who volunteered to go to Molokai, an island in Hawaii, in the 19th century and work with leprosy patients. At the time, anybody who was even suspected of having leprosy was sent to Molokai, essentially to rot and to die,” Wenham told a TED X audience in 2019.

It is the storytelling, Wenham told his TED listeners, that is why he is an actor.

“Stories can change us. Stories can change our outlook,” he said.

Twenty-five years later, the people of Molokai are still on Wenham’s mind, inspiring him to become a spokesperson for the work that The Leprosy Mission Australia is doing to end leprosy.

“I defy anybody to go to that place and not be affected or moved or changed. These are people who have suffered through the most incredibly disturbing lives and yet are so full of joy and full of life.

“You realise how ridiculous some of the petty things that upset us in our rather

privileged lives are. It was a huge life lesson. Those people had a profound effect on me,” Wenham told Brisbane News Magazine in 2003.

“We can all help end the suffering, restoring lives and communities.”

Pray for the upcoming screenings of Molokai around the country. Pray that people will be moved by the story of Father Damien and the people of Molokai who endured so much.

Pray for a renewed interest in hearing about the lives of people affected by leprosy and for more people to help end the suffering.

Australian-born Actor David Wenham has long been celebrated as a versatile artist, with captivating performances across film, television, and theatre. Wenham has held an iconic role as Faramir in The Lord of the Rings and interpreted significant roles in the movies 300 and Van Helsing. He even played Hank Snow Baz Luhrman’s Hollywood hit, Elvis.

And in the land of his birth, Wenham is still remembered for playing Daniel ‘Diver Dan’ Della Bosca on the popular TV show SeaChange in the late 1990s.

So why is one of Wenham’s lesser-known roles – as Father Damian in Molokai– still spurring him to action today?

You can help end the suffering, restore lives and communities by giving today



<https://leprosymission.org.au/goodbyeleprosy/kit0824>